

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, NATO
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ HUPE'S FAREWELL SPEECH TO NAC

FOLLOWING IS AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE'S FAREWELL SPEECH TO
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL DELIVERED AT NATO HEADQUARTERS IN
BRUSSELS TODAY, APRIL 15,1977. BEGIN TEXT:

FIRST, MY THANKS TO THE DIVINE PROVIDENCE THAT ALLOWED
ME, WELL ADVANCED IN AGE, TO FULFILL AN OVER-ARCHING AMBITION,
NAMELY TO SERVE AS MY COUNTRY'S SPOKESMAN TO THE ATLANTIC
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ALLIANCE, AS WELL AS TO MY COLLEAGUES ON THE COUNCIL,
FOR THE UNDERSTANDING, HELPFULNESS AND FRIENDSHIP THAT
THEY HAVE SHOWN ME THROUGHOUT THE BRIEF YEAR OF MY TENURE.
THE BEST WAY TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE, SO IT SEEMS TO ME,
IS TO SHARE WITH YOU MY THOUGHTS FILTERED FROM THIS ONE
GOLDEN YEAR'S EXPERIENCE.

SAYING GOODBY IS NEVER EASY. THE MORE SO, FOR ME,
ON THIS OCCASION WHEN I SHALL BE LEAVING THE COMPANY OF
MEN WHOSE FRIENDSHIP I HAVE ENJOYED, WHOSE ABILITY I
HAVE ADMIRED, AND WHOSE GENEROSITY AND THOUGHTFULNESS

HAVE BEEN EVIDENT TO ME, CONSTANTLY, DURING THE TIME
I HAVE SPENT WITH THEM.

NOW, THAT GENEROSITY IS EXPRESSED AGAIN IN THE GIFT
OF THIS LOVELY BOWL WHICH SHALL REMAIN FOR ME A MARK OF
MY COLLEAGUES' KINDNESS AND CONSIDERATION. I AM
DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THIS SPLENDID GIFT. I WILL REMIND
ME, ALWAYS, OF THE HONOR THE COUNCIL AND MY COUNTRY HAVE
BESTOWED ON ME BY INCLUDING ME AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

TO OUR SECRETARY GENERAL, WHO STEERS OUR ACTIVITIES
WITH FORCE AND TACT AND WHO, INDEED, ANIMATES THE ENTIRE
ALLIANCE WITH HIS WIT AND SPIRIT, I AM PARTICULARLY
GRATEFUL FOR HIS SAGACITY AND ADVICE TO ME IN THE CONDUCT
OF MY DUTIES. ALWAYS COURTEOUS, EVER FELICITOUS, NEVER
DEMURE, AT TIMES IMPLACABLE IN PURSUIT OF THE HIGHER
OBJECTIVES OF THIS ALLIANCE, AND INVARIABLY READY TO
ENLIVEN OUR MORE DOUR MOMENTS WITH HIS LEVITY AND
SPARKLE, JOSEPH LUNS EMBODIES THE FINEST QUALITIES OF
LEADERSHIP ON WHICH THE ALLIANCE RELIES.

TO AMBASSADOR DATALANO, OUR ABLE DEAN, I EXTEND
MY THANKS AS WELL. HIS SENSE OF MEASURE, HIS SPIRIT OF
COMPROMISE, AND HIS INSIGHTFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR
DELIBERATIONS ARE INDISPENSABLE TO THE EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING
OF THE COUNCIL.

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TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, AMBASSADOR PANSA,
AND TO THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY
COMMITTEE, SIR PETER HILL-NORTON, TO WHOM I WOULD ALSO
EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR THEIR PERSPICACITY, LUCIDITY,
AND ENLIGHTENING DISCOURSE. TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL STAFFS, CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, WHO SERVED
WITH SUCH DEDICATION THE COLLECTIVE ENDEAVORS OF THE
ALLIANCE; TO THE INTERPRETERS, WHO IMPROVE SO OFTEN ON
THE MORE OBSCURE PASSAGES OF OUR DISCOURSE; TO THOSE
WHO GUARD AND MAINTAIN OUR BUILDING, I EXTEND ALSO MY
APPRECIATION FOR THEIR LOYAL SERVICE.

TO SACEUR AND SACLANT, AND THEIR STAFFS AT SHAPE AND
NORFOLK AND AT OUR MILITARY COMMANDS, THE MUSCLE AND
SINEWS OF THIS ALLIANCE, I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THEIR
PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP AND HOSPITALITY.

IT HAS BEEN A RARE PRIVILEGE TO SHARE THE COMPANY OF
MEN OF SUCH CALIBER AND INTEGRITY.

THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE--THE REAL ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND
NOT THE ALLIANCE OF UTOPIA OR THE ALLIANCE DERIDED BY
HOSTILE CRITICS --WORKS WELL-AS WELL AS ANY PEACETIME
ALLIANCE OF SOVEREIGN NATIONS HAS EVER WORKED IN HISTORY.

ITS RECORD AS AN EXPERIMENT IN COLLECTIVE DECISION-MAKING-BY-CONSENSUS ALONE MAKES IT WORTH PRESERVING. THE ISSUES NOW CONFRONTING US AND THE FORESEEABLE SHAPE OF ISSUES TO-COME MAKE THE ALLIANCE NOT ONLY WORTH PRESERVING BUT ALSO WORTH STRENGTHENING, FOR THE SOLUTIONS OF THE PROBLEMS PRESSING UPON THE WEST ARE BOUND TO EXCEED THE REACH OF ANY WESTERN SOVEREIGN NATION, HOWEVER WISE AND POWERFUL. HERE AND NOW, THERE EXISTS NO BROADER INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK THAT CAN AS EFFECTIVELY ACCOMMODATE THE WESTERN DEMOCRACIES' SEARCH FOR COMMON POSITIONS ON WORLD POLITICS OTHER THAN THE WESTERN ALLIANCE. THE WEST'S CENTER-OF-GRAVITY IS IN THIS ROOM. IF ANY ONE IGNORES THIS FACT, BE IT ONLY FOR A UNCLASSIFIED

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MOMENT, HE DOES SO AT THE EXTREME PERIL OF ALL OF US.

TO TAKE A DARK VIEW, AS MANY DISTINGUISHED WESTERN THINKERS HAVE, THE MOST IMPORTANT HISTORICAL PHENOMENON OF

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OUR TIMES IS THE SHRINKING GLOBAL INFLUENCE OF THE WEST.
FOR A LONG TIME, THIS PHENOMENON HAS ENGAGED THE ATTENTION
OF HISTORIANS AND PHILOSOPHERS. IT IS MORE OBVIOUS THAN

ANY OTHER THAT LIES WITHIN THE RANGE OF OUR HISTORICAL VISION. YET, THROUGHOUT THE WEST, IT SEEMS TO HAVE ENGENDERED IN THE WESTERN PUBLIC AT LARGE THAT SENSE OF FATALISTIC INDIFFERENCE WHICH, SO I HAVE READ, LIVING BY THE SIDE OF A VOLCANO INDUCES IN THE LOCAL POPULATION. THE IDENTIFICATION OF THIS PHENOMENON IS, HOWEVER, FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE GEOPOLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WE LIVE, FOR IT SIGNIFIES A FUNDAMENTAL ALTERATION OF THE WORLD ORDER.

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THE DIMENSIONS OF THIS RETREAT HAVE BEEN BOTH GEOPOLITICAL AND SPIRITUAL. SINCE THE FIRST DECADES OF THIS CENTURY, THE WEST'S SWAY AND THE WEST'S VALUES--ITS CONCEPTS OF POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM--HAVE BEEN LOSING CURRENCY.

ALL MAJOR ISSUES OF CONTEMPORARY WORLD POLITICS STEM FROM THIS PHENOMENON, SEEM BY MANY HISTORIANS AS THE GLOBAL RETREAT OF THE WEST. TO IGNORE THIS FACT, THEY CONTEND, IS EITHER A CONFESSION OF HISTORICAL IGNORANCE OR WISHFUL MISREADING OF THE STARK RECORD OF THE WEST'S PROGRESSIVE ATROPHY.

ALL THOUGHOUT THIS AGE OF THE WEST'S PUTATIVE GEOPOLITICAL RETRET, THE WEST HAS BEEN GROWING RICHER, ITS PEOPLES WAXED MORE PROSPEROUS, ITS SCIENTISTS-TECHNOLOGISTS PERFORMED MIRACLES OF CREATIVITY, AND ITS MATERIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NON-WESTERN NATIONS FLOWED EVER MORE ABUDNANTLY. IT IS THESE MANIFESTATIONS OF WESTERN INTELLECTUAL AND ECONOMIC PROWESS THAT HAVE LULLED THE WESTERN PUBLICS INTO A SENSE OF COMPLACENCY ABOUT STUBBORN SYMPTIOMS THAT POINT UNMISTABLY TO THE DECAY OF THE WEST'S GLOBAL POSITION.

TURNING OUR ATTENTION EASTWARD TO THE EXTERNAL THREAT, THERE ARE, AS IN THE CASE OF THE BLIND MEN'S PERCEPTIONS OF ELEPHANT, MANY WAYS FOR PERCEIVING THE SOVIET UNION. WE CAN VIEW THE SOVIET UNION AS A NUCLEAR POWER--AS BIG AS THE U.S. OR BIGGER OR SMALLER THATN THE U.S. WE CAN VIEW THE SOVIET UNION AS THE BASE OF MARXIST-LENINIST IDEOLOGY. WE CAN VIEW THE SOVIET UNION AS A TRADITIONAL GREAT POWER, HEIR TO CZARIST GEOPOLITICAL ASPIRATIONS. EACH OF THESE PERCEPTIONS TELLS US SOMETHING WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SOVIET RUSSIA IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND IT AND ITS WAYS. YET DO THESE PERCEPTIONS SUFFICE FOR AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOVIET UNION'S UNCLASSIFIED

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FOREMOST PURPOSE IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AS SEEN BY SO MANY STUDENTS OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY? HAS NOT THE SOVIET UNION-- EVER SINCE THE FIRST YEARS OF THE COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP AND

WHILE CONSOLIDATING AND EXPANDING ITS COLONIAL EMPIRE AND ITS HOLD ON RUSSIAN SOIL--NOT SOUGHT TO TURN THE NON-WESTERN PEOPLES AGAINST THE WEST AND TO EXPLOIT THOSE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE WEST AND THE NON-WEST THAT IT DID NOT MANAGE TO SPARK? ALTHOUGH WE MUST VIEW THE END OF WESTERN COLONIALISM AS A MORAL GOOD, DECOLONIZATION HAS CREATED IN MANY PLACES A POLITICAL VOID. CONSISTENTLY, THE SOVIETS HAVE SPARED NO EFFORT TO FILL IT.

IF ANY SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY SEEMS TO SO MANY SEASONED OBSERVERS TO HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT, IT HAS BEEN THIS ONE. THE SOVIETS HAVE PURSUED IT WITH EQUAL PERSEVERANCE AT THE LOWS AND HIGHS OF THEIR POWER. THUS ALL OTHER POLICIES OF THE SOVIET UNION, MILITARY, BILATERAL AND MULTI-LATERAL DIPLOMACY, GLOBAL AND REGIONAL, IDEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL, CAN BE SEEN AS TRIBUTARY TO THIS ONE POLICY, I.E., THE MOBILIZATION OF THE NON-WESTERN PEOPLES IN THE DRIVE AGAINST THE WEST'S RESIDUAL HOLDINGS AND INFLUENCE IN THE NON-WESTERN WORLD. ON THIS PREMISE, LENIN'S DICTA ON IMPERIALISM HAVE INFORMED AND STILL INFORM THE SOVIET VIEW OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS.

THE PURSUIT OF THIS GLOBAL OBJECTIVE IS SEEN BY MANY STRATEGISTS AS NOW SUPPORTED BY THE RESOURCES OF A WORLD POWER--A WORLD POWER THAT HAS ATTAINED ITS "PLACE IN THE SUN." IN HISTORY, THERE IS NO PRECEDENT FOR A WORLD POWER--PRESENT COMPANY EXCEPTED--RENOUNCING VOLUNTARILY ITS IMPERIAL ASPIRATIONS. OF ALL THE WORLD POWERS, PASS AND PRESENT, THE SOVIET UNION IS THE LEAST LIKELY TO BE AN EXEPTION FROM THIS RULE. FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN'S CONCLUSION IS THE FOLLOWING: "THE BASIC PREMISE FROM WHICH WE IN THE WEST MUST START IS THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS A WORLD POWER WITH NATIONAL INTERESTS AND AMBITIONS TO MATCH

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WHICH INEVITABLY BRING IT INTO COMPETITION, AND
SOMETIMES CONFRONTATION, WITH THE WEST. TO THIS WE
MUST ADD THAT COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY INVESTS THE NATURAL
RIVALRY BETWEEN EAST AND WEST WITH A DYNAMIC OF
INCREASING STRUGGLE."

THE SOVIET UNION HAS NEVER INTENDED AND DOES NOT
INTEND NOW TO FIGHT AN AGGRESSIVE NUCLEAR WAR. INDEED,
THE SOVIET UNION PROBABLY DOES NOT INTEND TO FIGHT ANY KIND OF
WAR--IF IT CAN HELP IT. FOR THE SOVIET UNION MILITARY
POWER THAT CANNOT BE PUT TO POLITICAL USE HAS ALWAYS
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BEEN OF NEGLIGIBLE INTEREST. THE PURPOSE OF SOVIET
MILITARY POWER AS WELL AS ANY OTHER KIND OF POWER HAS
BEEN TO PROVIDE THE PROPS THAT SUPPORT ITS POLITICAL-
PSYCHOLOGICAL CONFLICT STRATEGY. THIS CONFLICT
STRATEGY RELIES UPON THE INDIRECT APPROACH, I.E.:
THE GRADUAL ENCIRCLEMENT OF THE WEST BY REDUCING ITS
STRONGHOLDS, STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC, OUTSIDE THE
TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF THE WESTERN STATES. AMONG ITS
MANY DEVICES, THE MOST EFFECTIVE HAS BEEN THE FOMENTING
AND FEEDING OF PROXY WARS, SUCH AS THE WARS IN KOREA AND
INDO-CHINA AND REVOLUTIONARY WARS IN COLONIAL AND
EX-COLONIAL LANDS.

THE CONTINUED COMMUNIST STRUGGLE FOR THE ISOLATION
OF THE WESTERN "CITY" FROM THE NON-EASTERN "COUNTRY SIDE"--
AS MAO'S METAPHOR PUTS IT--IS NOT INCOMPATIBLE WITH EAST-
WEST DETENTE DEFINED AS "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE." INDEED,
THIS STRUGGLE IS SEEN BY MANY STUDENTS OF SOVIET HISTORY AS
THE RATIONALE OF DETENTE, FOR DETENTE PROVIDES THE OPTIMAL
CONDITIONS FOR WAGING IT.

LET IT BE CONCEDED HERE THAT THE ECONOMIC AND
TECHNOLOGICAL BENEFITS TO THE SOVIET UNION OF THE
DETENTE ARE CONSIDERABLE AND WOULD CONSTITUTE
SUFFICIENT JUSTIFICATION FOR THE SOVIET DETENTE POLICY--
IF THE SOVIET UNION WERE A STATUS QUO POWER AS ARE WE. THE

VIEW CAN BE DEFENDED THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS NOT A STATUS QUO POWER, AND THAT THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE SOVIET UNION IS NOT TO ACHIEVE A STABLE EQUILIBRIUM WITH US. ACCORDING TO THIS VIEW, THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE SOVIET UNION IS TO REDUCE THE WORLD'S AREAS UNDER THE WESTERN WRIT, TO RAISE THE NON-WESTERN PEOPLES AGAINST THE WEST, AND DEPRIVE THE WEST OF THE NON-WESTERN PEOPLES' MATERIAL RESOURCES, NOT TO SPEAK OF THEIR GOOD WILL.

ONE OF THE EXPLICIT PURPOSES OF OUR DETENTE POLICY
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IS TO DEVELOP A PERCEPTION OF SHARED INTERESTS THAT WILL JOIN US AND THE SOVIET UNION EVER MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER IN COMMON PURSUITS--THE QUEST FOR MUTUAL SECURITY, THE COMMON FIGHT AGAINST SOME OF THE WORLD'S ILLS, AND MUTUALLY PROFITABLE TRADE. ANOTHER PURPOSE OF OUR DETENTE POLICY, EXPLICITLY STATED, IS TO INFLUENCE THE FOREIGN POLICIES OF THE SOVIET UNION, THOUGH NOT ITS DOMESTIC POLICIES. IT STANDS TO REASON, HOWEVER, THAT, THOUGH WE REFRAIN FROM INTERFERENCE IN SOVIET DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, THE WORKINGS OF THE DETENTE ARE EXPECTED TO BRING ABOUT A GRADUAL AND, AS WE PERCEIVE IT, BENEFICIAL TRANSFORMATION OF SOVIET SOCIETY. WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF OUR OWN VALUE SYSTEM WE ARE JUSTIFIED IN BELIEVING THAT INCREASED TRADE AND PERSONAL INTERCOURSE WILL FOSTER SOCIAL CHANGE AND BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND OUR CIVILIZATION. IN BRIEF, THE SOVIET UNION WILL DEVELOP INTO AN INDUSTRIAL-URBAN CONSUMER SOCIETY LIKE OUR OWN; TAKE ITS PLACE BY OUR SIDE AMONG THE STATUS QUO POWERS--AND, THUS, GROW MORE "WESTERN" BY NOT ONLY ACQUIRING THE WEST'S MATERIAL ACCESSORIES, BUT ALSO APPROXIMATING THE WEST'S POLITICAL-SOCIAL WAY OF LIFE.

MANY BELIEVE THAT THE EVIDENCE CULLED FROM THE HISTORY OF RUSSIA, CZARIST AND COMMUNIST, DOES NOT SHOW THAT THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE EVER WANTED TO BE WESTERN, NOR THAT IT PROVIDES GROUNDS FOR ASSUMING THAT THEY WILL CHANGE THEIR MIND. EXCEPT FOR A MINISCULE ELITE THAT, IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, LOOKED TO THE WEST FOR POLITICAL AND CULTURAL INSPIRATION, THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE, INCLUDING SOME OF THEIR GREATEST WRITERS, HAVE ALWAYS REGARDED THE WEST WITH STOLID INDIFFERENCE, IF NOT WITH DISDAIN AND MISTRUST.

THE ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF THE SOVIET REGIME--A RULE IMPOSED FROM ABOVE; AN OMNIPOTENT BUREAUCRACY; AN OMNIPRESENT POLICE; TIGHT CENSORSHIP; MONOLITHIC CONTROL
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OF PUBLIC OPINION AND CULTURAL LIFE; A JUDICIARY SERVING AS THE OBEDIENT INSTRUMENT OF STATE POWER; THE STATE'S STONEY INDIFFERENCE TOWARDS HUMAN RIGHTS; AND THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE'S UNPROTESTING ACCEPTANCE OF ALL THESE THINGS-- ARE REPLICAS OF CZARIST AUTOCRACY AND KIN TO THE GREAT DESPOTISMS OF OLD. IN SUM, RUSSIAN POPULAR SENTIMENT REINFORCES THE ANTI-WESTERN THRUST OF LENIN'S DOGMAS ON "IMPERIALISM."

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EVEN IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE DOCTRINAL AMBIGUITIES OF "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE" FAMILIAR TO EVERY KOMSOMOL, SOVIET MAN COULD NOT HELP BUT PERCEIVE OF THE DETENTE IN A CONTEXT QUITE DIFFERENT FROM OURS. FOR HIM, AS FOR US, DETENTE SIGNIFIES A MEASURE OF SECURITY AGAINST TOTAL WAR. UNLIKE US, HE VIEWS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS CONDITION AS THE DIRECT, INELUCTABLE RESULT OF THE WEAKENING OF THE WEST. THIS WEAKENING OF THE WEST, SO HE IS TOLD BY THE MYRIAD VOICES OF PUBLIC INDOCTRINATION, HAS BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE PRESSURES OF SUPERIOR COMMUNIST POWER AS WELL AS THE INTERNAL DECAY--THE UNCLASSIFIED

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"CONTRADICTIONS" -- OF THE "CAPITALIST" I.E., THE WESTERN SYSTEM. IN BRIEF, SOVIET DOMESTIC PROGPAGANDA HAILS DETENTE AS ANOTHER BATTLE WON ON THE LONG ROAD TO COMMUNIST VICTORY. NOW, IT ONLY REMAINS TO PUSH WHAT IS FALLING. THIS PUSH CAN NO E BE APPLIED, WITH RENEWED FORCE AND WITHOUT INCURRING UNACCEPTABLE POLITICAL-MILITARY RISHS, AGAINST THE SOFT UNDERBELLY OF THE WEST, I.E., THE RESOURCES AND MARKETS ON WHICH THE WEST'S LIFE DEPENDS.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

TO PROPOSE THAT WE SCRAP, HERE AND NOW, OUR POLITICIES THAT GO BY THE NAME OF DETENTE WOULD BE BOTH UNPOLITIC AND FRIVOULUS. AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON ARMS CONTROL THAT STRENGTHEN OUR SECURITY ARE CATEGORICALLY IN OUR INTEREST. SO ARE AGREEMENTS ON TRADE THAT ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY AND DO NOT ACCRUE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE ADVANTAGE OF SOVIET MILITARY TECHNOLOGY. SMALL AS IS THE IMPACT OF THE EXCHANGES OF PERSONS AND IDEAS UPON THE FOREIGN POLICIES OF A GREAT POWER SUCH AS THE SOVIET UNION, THE INCREASE IN HUMAN CONTACTS BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE PEOPLES UNDER SOVIET RULE IS LIKELY, IN THE LONG RUN, TO BENEFIT US. THE RIVALRY BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNIST GREAT POWERS PROVIDES US--AND, FOR A WHILE, MIGHT STILL PROVIDE US-- VALUABLE STRATEGIC AND DIPLOMATIC ADVANTAGES, THOUGH THIS RIVALRY DOES NOT NECESSARILY STRENGTHEN THE WEST'S POSITION RELATIVE TO THE THIRD WORLD.

I HERE ASSERT THAT THE FIRST AND OVERARCHING PRIORITY OF WESTERN POLICY MUST BE THE SELF DEFENSE AND RENAISSANCE OF THE WEST. IN OTHER WORDS, I BELIEVE THAT POLICIES THAT DO NOTLIE IN THE COLLECTIVE INTEREST OF THE WEST AND THE WORLD AS A WHOLE DO NOT SERVE THE INTERESTS OF ANY WESTERN NATION EITHER.

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THE CATEGORIC AFFIRMATION
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OF OUR WESTERN PRIORITY WILL DISTRESS THE SOVIET RULERS AND THE RULING ESTABLISHMENTS OF SOME NON-WESTERNLANDS. AS FAR AS THE SOVIET RULERS ARE CONCERNED, THE AFFIRMATION OF OUR WESTERN PRIORITY WILL NOT HARDEN THEIR PURPOSE, NAMELY, THE DISCOMFIT OF THE WEST ANY MORE THAN THE LACK OF THIS AFFIRMAION HAS SOFTENED IT. IN BRIEF, NOTHING THAT WE SAY OR DO WILL DEFLECT SOVIET STRATEGY FROM ITS FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE. THAT THIS OBJECTIVE HAPPENS TO HAVE BEEN LARGELY THE OBVERSE OF OURS, IS THE DILEMMA OF WORLD POLITICS. IF WE WERE TO LEAD THE SOVIETS TO BELIEVE THAT WE DO NOT SEE WHAT IS SO CLEARLY AT ISSUE, THEN WE WOULD ENCOURAGE THEM TO ENGAGE IN THE KIND OF VENTURES THAT, IN THE PAST, HAVE BROUGHT THEM AND US TO THE "BRINK."

IDEALLY, THE DESIRE TO DO GREAT THINGS IN COMMON-
TO BUILD A PERFECT SOCIETY AND TO CURE THE WORLD'S ILLS--
SHOULD MOVE THE WESTERN PEOPLES TOWARDS UNION. AS IT IS,
THE WESTERN PEOPLES' STAKES IN THEIR COMMON CIVILIZATION,
TOGETHER WITH THEIR COUNTLESS INTERRELATIONSHIPS IN TRADE,
SCIENCE AND CULTURE, HAVE NOT PERSUADED THEM TO JOINT IN A
POLITICAL COMMUNITY.

THE HISTORY OF THIS CENTRUY HAS REVEALED PLAINLY THE
DISMAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE WESTERN PEOPLES' INABILITY TO
PERCEIVE AND TO MEET IN COMMON A CHALLENGE THAT THREATENS
TO OVERWHELM EACH AND ALL OF THEM. JUST AS PLAINLY,
THEY POINT TO THE NE AND ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO THE WEST'S
ULTIMATE COMMUNITY IN DEFEAT.

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INCREASINGLY, THE GRAVEST CHALLENGES TO THE ALLIANCE
CIRCUMVENT THE AREA AND TRANSCEND THE PROVISIONS OF THE
TREATY OF WASHINGTON OF 1949. THE TIME IS NOW TO COME
TO GRIPS WITH THE NATURE OF THESE CHALLENGES AND TO
REASSESS THE ROLE OF THE ALLIANCE AS THE GUARDIAN OF
THE WEST'S COLLECTIVE SECURITY. ONCE AGAIN, THERE ARISES
THE NEED FOR THE RESURGENCE OF THAT CREATIE POLITICAL
WILL THAT FOUNDED THEALLIANCE.

IT HAS BEEN THE WEST'S GOOD FORTUNE TO FIND,
AT ITS MOST CRITICAL HISTORICAL TURNING POINTS,
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LEADERS OF VISION AND PURPOSE. WE CAN TAKE HEART FROM
PRESIDENT CARTER'S INSPIRING CALL TO GREAT UNDERTAKINGS.
IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS HE SAID: "THE PASSION FOR
FREEDOM IS ON THE RISE... TAPPING THIS NEW SPIRIT
THERE CAN BE NO NOBLER OR AMBITIOUS TASK FOR US TO
UNDERTAKE THAN TO HELP SHARE A JUST AND PEACEFUL
WORLD THAT IS TRULY HUMANE." STRIKING THIS SAME NOTE,
VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TOLD US, ON JANUARY 23RD, THAT
"THERE IS A NEW FAITH IN THE STRENGTH OF OUR DEMOCRATIC
SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, A NEW WILLINGNESS TO MEET
CHALLENGING AND CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES ABROAD."
THE VICE PRESIDENT WENT ON TO SAY: "I SHARE THE CONFIDENCE
OF THE PRESIDENT THAT TOGETHER WE WILL BE EQUAL TO THE
TASKS OF THE FUTURE."

WESTERN CIVILIZATION IS WELL WORTH WORKING AND
FIGHTING FOR. IT IS THE ONLY CIVILIZATION TO DATE THAT
HAS STRUCK AN EVEN BALANCE BETWEEN THE MATERIAL AND THE
MORAL ASPIRATIONS OF THE GREATEST NUMBER OF MEN AND
WOMEN. LIKE ALL CIVILIZATIONS BEFORE IT, IT RESTS UPON
THIS EARTH. ITS SWAY EXTENDS FROM A TERRITORIAL BASE.
THIS BASE IS WELL WORTH DEFENDING, FOR WITHOUT IT WESTERN
CIVILIZATION FADES INTO A PHILOSOPHICAL ABSTRACTION
BEREFT OF CREATIVE FORCE.

THE MUCH DISCUSSED ALIENATION OF OUR YOUTH FROM THE
VALUES OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION IS, IN FACT, AN ALIENATION
FROM REALITY: THE ALIENATED YOUNG, BECAUSE THEY TAKE THE
SECURITY AND WEALTH OF OUR CIVILIZATION FOR GRANTED, DO
NOT SEE WHY THEY SHOULD WORK AND FIGHT FOR IT. THUS,
THEIR ALIENATION IS NOT SO MUCH ENGENDERED BY ANGUISHED
DISCONTENT AS THE INABILITY OF THEIR ELDERS TO COMPEL THEIR
IMAGINATION, TO CHANNEL THEIR ENERGIES, OR TO STIMULATE
THEM TO CONFRONT THE CHALLENGES TO THE SOCIETY THAT HAS
NURTURED THEM. ALL OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, ALIENATED AND
UNALIENATED, NEED TO BE TOLD THAT THE WEALTH AND SECURITY
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OF OUR CIVILIZATION ARE AT RISK. ONLY THE CALL TO GREAT
UNDERTAKINGS WILL FIRE THEIR IMAGINATION AND STIR THEM
TO ACTION. THE MAKING OF WESTERN UNITY IS THE GREATEST
UNDERTAKING OF OUR TIMES. IF THE YOUNG AS WELL AS THE OLD
WILL NOT HEED THAT CALL, THEN WE NEED NO LONGER FRET ABOUT
THE FUTURE OF THE WESTERN PEOPLES. THEN, THAT FUTURE WILL
BE WHAT THE WEST'S ENEMIES WILL MAKE OF IT. I BELIEVE
THAT THE TEMPER OF THE WESTERN PEOPLES DOES NOT TEND TOWARDS

APATHY AND SELF-DESTRUCTION. HENCE, I HOLD THAT THE WEST IS STILL STRONG AND WISE ENOUGH TO GRASP THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR CREATING A FUTURE ORDER THAT WILL BE WHAT WE AND NOT OUR ENEMIES WILL MAKE IT.

THE WEST'S FIBER IS SOUND, SOUND ENOUGH FOR US TO REJECT OUT OF HAND THE DARK MESSAGES OF SPENGLERIAN DOOM. IN HIS SPEECH TO THE UNITED NATIONS, PRESIDENT CARTER SAID: "I SEE A HOPEFUL WORLD, A WORLD DOMINATED BY INCREASING DEMANDS FOR BASIC FREEDOMS, FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, FOR HIGHER STANDARDS OF HUMAN EXISTENCE." IT SHOULD BE OUR COMMON TASK TO SEE TO IT THAT THESE DEMANDS--DEMANDS SPARKED BY THE ETHOS OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION--ARE BEING MET.

IN CONCLUSION, I VENTURE TO ENTREAT YOU, MY COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS, TO GUARD IN THE FUTURE THAT UNIQUE INSTITUTION, NATO, AS WELL AS YOU HAVE GUARDED IT IN THE PAST. THE ALLIANCE HAS SERVED AND SHOULD SERVE IN THE FUTURE AS AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT OF NEGOTIATION ON EAST-WEST ISSUES. BUT THE ALLIANCE ITSELF AND THE STAKE OF EACH MEMBER IN IT MUST NEVER BE NEGOTIABLE--HOWEVER ENTICING MIGHT BE THE OFFER. WHEN IT WAS FOUNDED, THE ALLIANCE MIGHT HAVE BEEN CONCEIVED AS AN EXPEDIENT IMPROVISATION. SINCE THEN THE ALLIANCE HAS TURNED INTO A CONSTANT, PERHAPS THE ONE AND ONLY CONSTANT OF WESTERN STATECRAFT. ON THIS ROCK RESTS THE WEST'S EDIFICE.

END TEXT. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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